

health benefits, no preexisting condition exclusion will be allowed.

The Health Coverage Availability and Affordability Act also allows small employers to band together in associations to form multiple employer groups that could fully-insure or self-insure. Under current law, large businesses are allowed to buy health insurance under a different set of rules than small business. Large, self-insured businesses are exempted from State law in their health plans while small businesses are stuck with State mandates, premium taxes, and other forms of regulation. This inequity between big business and small business in large part explains why the premiums of corporate America are going down while small business premiums are going up.

In addition, this legislation seeks to provide a greater incentive for the self-employed of this country to purchase health insurance by raising the amount they can deduct for health care costs from 30 percent to 50 percent by the year 2003. One of the major problems facing small business is the high cost of health insurance. There are nearly 3 million self-employed Americans without health insurance. If this group of business owners were given a greater deduction, many of these uninsured would purchase insurance, substantially reducing the number of uninsured Americans.

Mr. Chairman, H.R. 3103 encompasses measures that will enhance the current market system and make health insurance accessible and affordable for millions of Americans, and I strongly support its passage.

GEORGE DUTCHIE MINER
HONORED

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON
OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Friday, March 29, 1996

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to pay tribute today to my good friend and constituent, Mr. George Dutchie Miner on the occasion of his retirement, March 29, 1996, following 55 years of service to Northrop Grumman and its corporate predecessors—including among other company names Hamilton, Chance Vought, Ling Tempco Vought and Vought. Mr. Miner started with the company on March 7, 1941, making aircraft propellers for what was then a division of United Aircraft. He made propellers from scratch out of aluminum alloy. Throughout his career, Mr. Miner has made dies for all of the company's aircraft, for Boeing programs and for military subcontracts. Most recently, as a die finisher, he has prepared 17,000 pound dies for use in creating components for the B-2 Stealth bomber.

During World War II, Mr. Miner earned about 50 cents an hour as a tool and die maker, \$28 dollars a week with overtime on the weekends. But he was able to provide for his family and put his two sons through college. He now enjoys the love and affection of three grandchildren. During a portion of his career, he served as the State vice president of his labor union. He also served as a Democratic precinct chairman for many years and a community leader extraordinaire.

Congratulations Dutchie, Northrop Grumman and the country are grateful for your many years of service. I salute you for a job well done.

LIMITED OVERTIME EXEMPTION

HON. HARRIS W. FAWELL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, March 29, 1996

Mr. FAWELL. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to provide a limited overtime exemption from section 7(k) of the Fair Labor Standards Act [FLSA] for public sector employees who provide emergency medical services [EMS]—the same FLSA exemption afforded to fire protection personnel. Without this change in law, there will continue to be circumstances in which EMS personnel are working the same tours of duty as either fire protection or law enforcement personnel, but most be paid overtime for any hours worked in excess of 40 hours during any workweek.

In some localities, such as Burke County, NC, EMS functions are entirely separate from fire protection and law enforcement activities, but their job duties are identical. There should be no difference in the treatment of EMS personnel under the FLSA simply because of the manner in which emergency services are provided by local communities. Furthermore, in many jurisdictions, the majority of emergency calls are medical emergencies. The current situation is very expensive for State and local governments and intrudes on their management of fire protection and law enforcement activities.

Section 7(k) of the FLSA provide a partial exemption from overtime for those employees engaged in fire protection and law enforcement activities. Employers are allowed to establish work periods of up to 28 days, and overtime compensation is not owed until fire protection employees have worked more than 212 hours and law enforcement personnel exceed 171 hours of work. There have been conflicting ruling by Federal courts of appeal on the issue of whether EMS personnel are covered by section 7(k). There also have been different interpretations by the courts of the regulations on this subject. This has led to confusion and large financial liability on the part of State and local governments. The bill I am introducing today revises section 7(k) so that these EMS personnel qualify for the same partial exemption from overtime as fire protection personnel.

Mr. Speaker, the FLSA, passed in 1938, mandates a rigid interpretation of the 40-hour workweek and its worker classification and compensation requirements are not reflective of the contemporary workplace. Contradictory court interpretations of the FLSA have provided windfall judgments for some employees. These costly judgments against public sector employers have a direct impact on budgets supported by taxpayer dollars and also affect public safety services. The existing liability for many States and localities is estimated to be in the millions of dollars, and the potential for future liability creates tremendous fiscal uncertainty. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation which promotes the mandate of public accountability and fiscal responsibility to which State and local governments must adhere.

SENATE AMENDMENTS TO H.R. 1833, PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 27, 1996

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I oppose this rule and the underlying bill, H.R. 1833, because it is cruel and unnecessary Government intrusion into one of the most private and painful decisions a woman could ever face in her life.

When this bill came before the House last fall, and again today, we have a rule that does not offer an opportunity to vote on a true exception to protect the life and health of the woman.

Mr. Speaker, speakers on both sides of this issue have noted accurately that this procedure is rarely used. It is rarely used because the only reason women seek abortions late in pregnancy is because they face the terrible tragedy of a life-threatening or serious health-threatening situation, or when they discover that a very-much-wanted child simply will not survive after birth. When they face this tragedy, this is one of very few, and sometimes is the only procedure that can be used, to protect their ability to become pregnant again.

Testimony from women who have had this procedure is moving and undeniable. They are women who wanted their children and are devastated when they find that something has gone terribly wrong with their own health or that of the fetus.

I submit for the record the stories of two women who both desperately wanted their children, but instead needed this procedure when tragedy struck.

Mr. Speaker, we may never know the sorrow women like these two have faced. And we certainly can't presume to give them the best medical advice or emotional support they need. I urge the defeat of this rule and this bill.

TESTIMONY OF COREEN COSTELLO

My name is Coreen Costello. I live in Agoura, California, with my husband Jim and our son Chad and daughter Carlyn. Jim is a chiropractor and I live being a full-time, stay-at-home wife and mom. I am a registered Republican, and very conservative. I don't believe in abortion. Because of my deeply held Christian beliefs, I knew that I would never have an abortion. In fact, I remember a few years ago when I was nursing my son Chad, I watched a speech Congressman Hyde gave on C-SPAN against abortion. It was so eloquent, it moved me to tears. I even participated in the "Walk for Life" sponsored by our local Christian radio station.

Even now, I am amazed at the fact that I am here. I never would have believed that I would be testifying in Congress, supporting an abortion procedure.

In March of last year, we were joyfully expecting the arrival of our third child. Then on March 24, almost a year ago to the day, when I was seven months pregnant, I began having premature contractions and my husband and I rushed to the hospital.

During an ultrasound, the physician became very silent. Soon more physicians came in. Jim told me everything would be fine but I knew there was something very wrong. I went into the bathroom and sobbed.